

The following is a translation of the "Radio Farda" Persian program which was broadcasted via satellite on June 16, 2007.

"Radio Farda" – June 16, 2007 – 15:00

TRANSLATION BEGINS HERE

[UF]

The latest news, "Radio Farda"

[Music]

[Host Arman Mostofi]

"Radio Farda" news.

[Music]

The Pro-Fatah military group on the West Bank went on a rampage against Hamas, and captured locations and places that were under their control.

[Music]

Today the new Palestinian emergency cabinet will start its activities.

[Music]

The Arabian League, the United States, Russia, the UN and the EU announced their support for Mahmoud Abbas.

[Music]

The time is 18:30, greetings to all you dear listeners; I am Arman Mostofi starting tonight's "Radio Farda" Evening Magazine."

But first, let's start with the best...I'm sorry... today's headline news by Behrouz Karouni.

[Behrouz Karouni]

Pro-Fatah Military group, "Martyrs Brigades Al-Aqsa" with their attack on the Prime minister's office, ministries and other governmental buildings

under control of Hamas in the west bank, threw out officials and employees belonging to Hamas and posted Palestinian and Fatah Organization flags on the walls. The Militant also attacked the Palestinian Parliament Building and tried to arrest Hassan Ghoreish, Vice president of the parliament, but the people stopped them. Most of the Hamas government officials today [Saturday] were absent from their jobs. In the City of Nablus, Gunmen captured the city council building, which was under the Hamas control. Salam Fayaz, prime minister elected by Mahmoud Abbas, today (Saturday) will introduce his cabinet members. Last Friday Mahmoud Abbas, leader of Palestinian National Authority, asked Mr. Fayaz, ex-Palestinian minister of economy, instead of Ismail Haniya from the Hamas side, to be responsible for electing his emergency government. According to Mahmoud Abbas's advisors, the new government will have 11 ministers.

The United States, Russia, the UN and the EU, and member of group 4 announced their complete support for Mahmoud Abbas and the new government with Salam Fayaz as the prime minister.

Also in yesterday's Arab league meeting in Cairo, they denounced clashes in Gaza and asked for immediate end of hostilities. They announced their support of Mahmoud Abbas and his new Palestinian government. Arab league also agreed to help Saudi Arabia and Egypt to setup a union to meditate between Hamas and Fatah.

Today (Saturday), another Sunni mosque in Basra exploded and was destroyed. In the last few days the explosion on the Samereh Asghari Sanctuary Shrine has been the second Sunni Shrine that has been destroyed. The Asghari Sanctuary was the resting place for 2 of the Shiite "Imams" that last week the second time it was bombed and it's minarets had been demolished. Last year, the golden dome of the Asghari Sanctuary was destroyed by an explosion. Iraqi government blames Al-Qaeda terrorists responsible for the explosion of the Asghari Sanctuary.

US military officials in Iraq arrested three Iranian diplomats on last Thursday in Bagdad for driving after the curfew time. Those three individuals were released after a short time. Foreign ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran yesterday condemned these actions and added that the US forces had investigated them for a few hours.

Robert Gates, US Secretary of Defense, arrived in Bagdad last night and met the prime minister of Iraq, Nuri Al Maleki, today. Mr. Gates, during his meeting with Iraq's prime minister, showed his [US] government support from his [Iraq] government and asked for his quick and serious actions towards the country's stability and an end to the sectarian violence.

[Host Arman Mostofi]

Thanks to Behrouz Karoun. And now about tonight's "Evening Magazine"

[Music]

Following the power struggle in the Palestinian territories, Fatah ordered total disarmament of Hamas, leaving on the west side of the Jordan River.

[Music]

Independent human rights organizations protest for detention of the three Iranian-Americans in Tehran continues.

[Music in the background]

We will also know about the latest news from our co-worker Nazi Azima's case.

[Music]

Islamic Students Association of Tehran "Amirkabir" University showed their concern about the eight detained students.

[Music]

The President of Islamic Republic of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, in Ghom, said, "In the world they are groups that propagate Christianity and Judaism with the dollar."

[Music]

In this same "Magazine," you will also listen to the "Didgaha" weekly program that will study the latest development on the Islamic Republic atomic program.

[Music]

Stay tuned with "Radio Farda"

[Music]

In Palestinian territories, tensions between Islamist groups the Hamas and Fatah movement continues. Despite the fact that the new prime minister, who was elected by head of Palestinian National Authority, is busy making his temporary cabinet. Ismail Haniya still sees himself as a prime minister and will not resign. Because of Hamas's complete victory over the entire Gaza strip, the amount of armed struggle has been reduced, but the struggles are far from over and with this new situation, thousands of Fatah fighters and supporters went on hiding or they are trying to escape from Gaza. Ordinary people and many Palestinian territory habitants prefer to escape from the region other than stay there. In the eastern parts that Fatah has control, today, this movement organization ordered Hamas's forces to surrender their weapons. This order raised the possibility of new clashes on the eastern part.

Let's listen to Mariam Manzuri's report about that subject.

[Mariam Manzuri]

Ismail Haniya, leader of the Hamas Movement in Palestinian territories, today (Saturday) again expresses his opposition against the leader of Palestinian National Authority, Mahmoud Abbas's, decision about the dissolution of elected government, his removal from the prime ministry position. He rejects the separation of the Gaza Strip from the West bank. He said that, "Gaza is not separate from West Bank." He emphasized that, "Gaza's separation from the West bank will never be Hamas's policy."

After Hamas's complete takeover of the Gaza Strip, today Fatah's forces, headquartered in the West Bank, ordered the Hamas militants to surrender their weapons to official Palestinian forces. Accordingly in the last two days, hundreds of Hamas militants and activists have been arrested. At the same time, the Hamas military group warned Fatah that from last week's incidents they must learn a lesson and to not think about attacking the Hamas West Bank. Hamas announced that they would respond to any movement against his activists in the West Bank. In the last few hours,

Fatah forces began to attack the offices and buildings belonging to Hamas in West bank, especially at Ramallah, trying to take control over those places.

During this, Fatah's militants attached to Hamas's offices at the Palestinian Parliament and lots of objects were confiscated. Fatah forces mentioned that they would not let the Hamas members return to their positions. Attackers, by removing the Hamas green flags, replaced them with Fatah's flags.

At the same time, the Hamas forces, in Gaza, started to search house by house to arrest Fatah's remaining forces. Fatah announced that on those searches, Hamas forces started to loot governmental as well as personal belongings and lots of houses were being burned. On their searches of Fatah's offices and the other buildings, they either took or destroyed their belongings. They also said that Hamas confiscated all the military equipment that Fatah left behind. Fatah officials had said that Mahmoud Abbas ordered his loyal forces to reduce their forces from the border points.

Israel announced that they can't accept this current situation and can't stand having the Hamas forces controlling the borders.

Khaled Mashaal, political leader of the Hamas party on Friday from Syria, announced that they have no intention of keeping Gaza under their control. At the same time, he named Mahmoud Abbas's emergency government illegal. Mahmoud Abbas advisors rejected Khaled Mashaal's offer for restarting their negotiations by saying that the Hamas's actions at Gaza was a coup and they will not negotiate with them. Thursday night, Mahmoud Abbas with dissolving the elected government and removing Ismail Haniya, had announced an emergency situation.

The Arab Union, on their emergency meeting on Friday night from their location at Cairo, evaluated acts of the Hamas controlling Gaza. On their final statement, they called last week's situation a suicide, and with condemning Hamas, they asked them (Hamas) to make all arrangements and aspects to return to the same positions that they were before this latest struggle. The Arab Union on behalf of all Arabs asked Hamas and Fatah to stop the violence and to start the cooperation between both parties.

Meanwhile, the Arab Union announced that the present term Palestinian Parliament, which Hamas has majority of its seats, is still legal.

[Host Arman Mostofi]

That was Mariam Manzuri.

After one week from the Gaza incidents, the Islamic Republic of Iran still didn't show any transparent positions about this situation. About this issue, Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, preacher of yesterday's Tehran "Friday Prayer" only said, "Instead of the Palestinian fighting with Israel, they are fighting with each other." Newsha Boghrati will explain more.

[Newsha Boghrati]

It's been more than a week that Gaza has become the center of attention again and more than ever before. The differences between Fatah and Hamas in the last few days, after months of political and verbal struggle, traveling, meetings and dowse, ended up in violence. The violence, according to the deferent news sources, had left more than 120 deaths. But Gaza, Hamas, Fatah and Palestinian lands are variety words that are constantly heard in the Iranian political arena and continue being heard. Hamas openly has Tehran's support, but on the other hand Fatah has the western support. Mahmoud Abbas, leader of Palestinian National Authority from the Fatah movement, took a softer approach against Israel and in the opposite side, Ismail Haniya prime minister of Palestinian government from the Hamas group, took tougher positions against Tel Aviv.

But what is Iran's position in this recent geographical struggle? Alireza Haghighi, expert in political matters.

[Alireza Haghighi]

Despite the fact that generally Iran is supporting Hamas, they believe that these struggles will damage Palestinian cause and Israel would benefit the most. Continuation of this struggle surely has no benefit for Iran. So in general, Iran will try to recommend both parties, especially Hamas, to avoid being involved in more struggles. Iran finds the National Authority Government a true solution and knew that none of those two forces in Palestine are able to have total control of the power.

[Newsha Boghrati]

The Islamic Republic of Iran, during the last week or so for his regional red zone "Palestinian territories," chose silence and showed no reaction against clashes between two rival parties. About this issue without supporting any group, Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the Chairman of the Expediency Discernment Council, said on Friday, "Instead of the Palestinian fighting against Israel, they are facing each other." He said, "That exactly what the enemies were looking for." Alireza Haghighi.

[Alireza Haghighi]

Iran's position towards the Palestinian issue, as shown before, would have its flexibilities. They feel that with that flexibility in the end they would get some credit. Iran's unofficial report given through the Swiss embassy is the same as Iran's 2003 report. It shows that it's ready to accept Palestine's two country solutions.

Right now in Iran's political system special in National Defense Council, it's possible to accept two country solutions. The majority of Palestinians would support the plan but that shouldn't let Israel take advantage of it.

[Newsha Boghrati]

Iran is one of the biggest supporters of the fight against Israel in Palestine territories. They delivered millions of dollars of financial help to the Hamas Organization. Tehran doesn't recognize Israel. Hamas and the Islamic Republic have the same point of view. Even world pressure couldn't change their views.

[Host Arman Mostofi]

That was a report by Newsha Boghrati.

The Islamic Society of "Amirkabir" University - "Tehran polytechnic," publicized their statements and expressed their worries about the eight students from their university that were incarcerated.

Ismail Soleimanpour...excuse me, Salmanpour public member of Islamic Society of "Amirkabir" University talked to Behrouz Karouni about the statement that...

[Ismail Salmanpour]

50 days has passed already from detention of our "Polytechnic" friends. Of course, during last few days, the numbers of detainees are increasing. Now, unfortunately after all these days, we still have 8 of our friends in custody. Those 8 individuals have been arrested because of those published statements. Our friends in the Islamic Society have published 3

statements before. Because of the latest events, despite that...in my opinion, any judge or independent witness can tell that those friends that are in custody are not guilty. In fact, those same friends and the same Islamic Society were constantly condemning those publications and showing their disagreement about those published statements despite the Islamic Society explanations on their prior publications saying that, "That's not the work of those individuals." Unfortunately judiciary forces continue their same tactics against the Islamic Society inside and outside the university campus. They increased their pressure and detentions. The Islamic Society published another statement to explain current situations and also to warn those other students that were creating this type of problems for the student friends and their movements.

[Host Arman Mostofi]

This active student believes that this act of arresting students was planned about a year ago.

[Ismail Salmanpour]

Not only at "Polytechnic" also in other universities as well. Different organizations and independent organizations have been cancelled one after another. The pressures on those students were increased and the pressures were applied with different forms. I believe those acts were planned ahead of time. They use different tactics to silence their voices. Because of Polytechnic's unique situation and prior activities, students especially the Islamic Society, and other independent groups performed inside the university face much more difficulties. After Ahmadinejad's visit to the Polytechnic University which was a public defeat for him, those pressures increased even more. They used special tactics to stop students and silence their voices. Security forces somehow increased their pressure and took control over "Amirkabir" university.

[Host Arman Mostofi]

According to the "Amirkabir" University statements, there are rumors about torturing and mental pressures on those 8 detained students. This worries everyone.

Mr. Salmanpour said this about that situation.

[Ismail Salmanpour]

It seems that according to their scenario and security forces actions during these last few weeks, they are hoping to get some confessions from those



individuals. Because those individuals didn't do anything, they are not going to confess and because the forces are desperately waiting to get confessions, it seems that inside the prison they are applying a great amount of pressure on those individuals to be able to get the confessions that they are waiting for, and to complete the "Amirkabir" student's case.

[Host Arman Mostofi]

Ismail Salmanpour also said, "We know that using pressure and forcing students to confess would be illegal and also we know that legal detention time is 48 hours, but those students are already spending more time than that, and are in that temporary detention situation for a lot more than ten days." He also mentioned that, according to the Consultative Public Member of "Amirkabir" University Islamic Society, those students should have access to a lawyer and their families.

Also, they need to announce their charges.

[Ismail Salmanpour]

But the judge very calmly said, "There is no reason why I shouldn't keep them illegally in detention."

In my opinion, first, in this condition any confession would have no legal value. Second, after publication of the statement there were rumors about clashes and detentions. All those students had signed a paper mentioning that any confession against their will during the detention would be illegal and made it a complete legal case. They signed that outside the jail and in front of a lawyer. Those are all legal documents that could be used to help with their releases, but I don't know if existing legal system would act according to the law or not. I personally hope that they do.

[Host Arman Mostofi]

The defense attorney of Nazi Azima, "Radio Farda" reporter, rejects all the accusations that Tehran "Etemaad" newspaper published against his delegate. On Thursday, the "Etemaad" newspaper, in an article titled "Colorful View" or "Radio Farda Reporting," on behalf of a news source but with no name, accused Nazi Azima with an act against national security. Regardless of that, special prosecutor from secretary public prosecutor's office of revolutionary security, accused Mrs. Azima with much less charge of preaching against the government. Nazi Azima's defense attorney, Mohammad Hussein Aghasi, explained about the "Etemaad" newspaper article to "Radio Farda" reporter Amir-Mosaddeq Katouzian.

[Mohammad Hussein Aghasi]

I'm sure you have heard other published news about Ms. Azima especially in this newspaper. Not long ago, the same newspaper announced news that my plaintiff has been arrested. In the latest article, they corrected their prior mistake, I don't know if it was intentional or not. The problems that we are now facing are the advertising and activities of those newspapers, for example, about the article in the same "Eetemaad" newspaper that was published on the Thursday issue. What I think... I mentioned many times those accusations against my plaintiff from now till the end of the case is going to be the same, which is her preaching against the government. Obviously it's different from the act against the national security. Acts against the national security has a harsher punishment and the prosecution will be held in the revolutionary court, but preaching against the government which has nothing to do with the security. The case could be taken care of in public courts. Stresses of some authorities which could be due to the lack of their knowledge, maybe their irresponsibility or just intentional, they accused my plaintiff with unfair accusations of acts against the security.

About the preaching against the government In Revolutionary court, their argument wasn't that that my plaintiff had made any type of preaching, but it was because of her activities on this radio station [Radio Farda].

I reject all the accusations that were published in that article of the newspaper. It seems that the source was an intelligence official. Whatever, the thing is that it's far from reality.

[Amir Mosaddeq Katouzian]

The source in the "Eetemaad" newspaper mentioned in his latest article that, her co-operation with "Radio Farda" was not because it was broadcasting from abroad but because the radio was receiving funds from the Islamic Republic's governmental evaluating budget, which legally is not pardonable.

[Mohammad Hussein Aghasi]

In my opinion, we can call this sentence as press and broadcasting propaganda, because in our system... which I mentioned many times and will mention it again, that working at vocal or picture broadcasting places is not considered a crime, even if that station preaches against the Islamic Republic government, or even on a location of a financial source that is not favored by the Islamic Republic's government official. In the Law articles of

the Islamic punishment, which is the only source for law and order, nowhere has such an article. If an individual is accused of preaching against the government, they will be ruled and sentenced according to article 500 of the Islamic punishment laws.

[Amir Mosaddeq Katouzian]

Do you know if or when Mrs. Azima's passport will be returned?

[Mohammad Hussein Aghasi]

The ministry of intelligence's opposition about the returning of Mrs. Azima's passport is that, not until the main reason for the detention of 4 of our citizens is not resolved, I don't think they will return her passport. I was thinking if somehow they do convict her, and if for any reason they have to keep Mrs. Azima in Iran, they still have to return her passport.

[Host Arman Mostofi]

That was Mohammad Hussein Aghasi, Nazi Azima's defense attorney who was answering to Amir Mosaddeq Katouzian from "Radio Farda."

And now Iran's Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President of the Islamic Republic, said this at Ghom, "In the world they are groups that propagate Christianity and Judaism with the dollar. They said they want to rescue humanity. But the only way to the rescue [humanity] is Islam."

[Music]

Mr. Ahmadinejad's announcement came just after his visit to Ayatollah Mohammad Taghi Mesbahi Yazdi, the same individual that according to the "Etemaad" newspaper's article, there is a spiritual relationship between Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and him. The president of the Islamic Republic of Iran also mentioned that, "Today the universe is looking for a pure Islam." Those words are spoken at the same time that not only in the world of Islam, even in the Islam of 12 prophet Shiite religions, but also inside the ruling party of the Islamic Republic of Iran, there are different type of expectations, and according to them exists different phrases of the religion. Now there is a question; the pure Islam that Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was referring to, which phrase or expectation of Islam is, and what is its specialty?

To answer these, Taghi Rahmani, writer, reporter, and national-religious activist in Iran will respond.

[Taghi Rahmani]

All together during the last 27 years in the Islamic Republic ruling party, at least 4 versions of Islam have been presented. The first one at first cabinet was Mr. Bazargan's Islam, "Liberal Conservatives". Second one was Mr. Hashemi Rafsanjani's version which was the "Mohammedi - "Pro-Dmontiz", the third one was Mr. Khatemi's version which was a "Pacifist Islam" inside their own ruling government. Then there is another version that they call it "Realistic" Islam but I call it "Foundational" Islam. This "Foundational" version tries to eliminate the other versions and doesn't accept any other versions. For example, they say there are groups that propagate Christianity and Judaism to fool others. In fact, in the "Ghoran" there is a section that says, "Jews, Christians and Muslims are invited to live peacefully with each other, and together they should try to lead humanity to prosperity"

[Host Arman Mostofi]

Hassan Shariatmadari an Iranian preacher in Germany, son of the Great Ayatollah Kazem Shariatmadari, who was the main source to preach Shiite sections, said, "Violence caused by Revolutionary Islam, not only didn't do anything good for Islam, it also created inside disagreements."

[Hassan Shariatmadari]

The clear characteristics of a revolutionary Islam, after the Iranian revolution, became a normal pattern for revolutionary groups. The major differences with traditional Islam was their violence, harshness, terror, confiscation of goods and the issues of human rights for all Iranians, also insecurity and ignorance to the reality of the world. Those things are not going to attract the people of the world, and I don't think that that has created any type of attraction. Foreigners don't know the difference between traditional Islam and this revolutionary Islam, and they see only the ugliness that those individuals are showing. Of course on their intellectual level, they know about the differences. They have always tried to tell the common people that whatever Mr. Ahmadinejad and the Revolutionary groups are showing is not the real Islam. There exists an Islam that praises friendship, religion, law and order. The majority of Muslims worship traditional Islam and unfortunately they have to live under this environment.

[Host Arman Mostofi]

On the other hand the President of Islamic Republic has said that "With the dollar under the name of Judaism and Christianity, they try to praise different paths to save humanity." About Judaism, researchers believe that Judaism is not a commercial religion. Even Jewish individuals that were away from Judaism and tried to return to Judaism, they were faced with difficulties. In Christianity we can't deny that during the last 20 years, unknown amounts of Iranians, maybe thousands, have converted from Islam to Christianity.

Ahmad Alavi, researcher and expert in Islam from Sweden says that, changing a religion has different reasons and meanings.

[Ahmad Alavi]

We have witnessed that in Sweden some become Christians and some turn to Zoroastrian, it's an obvious fact. Of course there are different reasons for that, we can't pinpoint special reasons, but there could be a number of reasons. It could be that they became fed up of the current religion like in Iran and make a conversion, or maybe they try to know other religions to see if it can satisfy them better and other different reasons, like during public relations, some groups preach about particular religions. That also makes it possible for some people to change their religion. If someone says that Iranians change their religion for money, they should prove it. As you know, there is not enough information about that.

Of course this speech by Mr. Ahmadinejad like his other speeches, have no proof or document. It is very difficult to imagine that someone can change someone's religion for money or for things like that...

[Host Arman Mostofi]

Aki Conrad Eric, head of the Catarrhal or Big church of the Stockholm had said, "Churches are not the ones to go after the people, people themselves are going towards the church." And the answer to this question, "About those individuals that are converting to Christianity, does the church receive any money or not?"

[Aki Conrad Eric]

No never, never ever. [In English]

[Host Arman Mostofi]

No never, never ever.

[Sound of dialing]

[UF]

Phone number for "Radio Farda's" message center is  
00-42-02-21-12-41-13.

Share your opinions with other listeners of "Radio Farda".

Hello

This is "Radio Farda".

It is 19:00 hours.

Before continuing with the evening magazine, Behrouz Karouni will tell you some more news.

[Behrouz Karani]

Armed individuals from Al-Aqsa Martyrs group, one of the groups affiliated with Fatah, attacked the Prime Minister's office other government buildings and other ministries under the control of Hamas in the Gaza Strip. They expelled the officials and workers affiliated with this group and mounted Palestinian and Fatah flags on the walls.

Salam Fayaz, the prime minister chosen by Mahmoud Abbas, will introduce his cabinet today, Saturday. According to Mahmoud Abbas's advisors, the new government will include 11 ministers. The United States, Russia and the European Union, the members of the 4 way group, have expressed their total support for Mahmoud Abbas and the new government with Salam Fayaz as the prime minister.

Another Sunni mosque was blown up and was destroyed today, Saturday in Basra. This was the second Sunni mosque, which was destroyed in the last few days after the explosion at Haram Askari in Samara.

US military officials in Iraq are saying the reason for the arrest of 3 Iranian diplomats last Thursday in Baghdad was driving during prohibited hours. These 3 individuals were released a short time later. Robert Gates, US Secretary of Defense, who went to Baghdad last night, today met with Nouri Al Maleki, Iraq's prime minister. While expressing support for his government during his meeting with Iraq's prime minister, Mr. Gates asked him to take a quicker and decisive action to put forward the process of national unity and put an end to the sectarian violence.

Students at Amirkabir University signed a petition in support of 8 arrested students, asking for the suspension of the examinations until these students were released and revoke their guilty status from pursuing other studies. The family of Abas Hakimzadeh, one of the arrested individuals from the Islamic Union of Amirkabir University, expressed concerns about his physical condition.

Ayatollah Mohammad Fazel Lankarami, one of the authorities in Ghom, passed away today at the age of 76, following a lengthy period of illness. According to reports by Fars news agency, Mohammad Reza Nafti, the head of the Department of Prevention of Smuggling of Goods and Money, resigned protesting the lenient treatment and actions of the Judiciary in dealing with smugglers' cases. Abbas Ali Kadkhodai, the spokesman for the Guardian Council informed that the plan for eliminating the entrance exam for admission into universities has been found unconstitutional by the Guardian Council.

Salman Rashti, the British author of Indian descent has received the designation of a Knight from the queen of Britain.

[Host]

Thanks to Behrouz Karoun. Now it is time for the weekly program called "Viewpoints", which deals with the most recent activities regarding the Islamic Republic's nuclear activities.

[Female speaker]

Viewpoints

A forum to discuss fundamental political, social and cultural issues.

[Amirmosadegh Katoozian]

Greetings to the listeners of "Radio Farda". My name is Amirmosadegh Katozian. At the end of the meeting of the board of International Atomic Agency this week, the head of this agency warned that the stalemate regarding the resolution of the nuclear crisis between Tehran and the Security Council has almost reached a confrontation. However, Mohammad Al Baradei added that starting a war against Iran would be a

reaction based on insanity. Contemporaneous with Mr. Albaradei's statements, Tehran has to stop enriching uranium, either by force or on a volunteer basis by the deadline specified by the United Nation's Security Council. On the other hand, Tehran says that the Islamic Republic's nuclear program's purpose is for peaceful purposes and Iran is not pursuing enrichment of uranium for the purpose of production of a nuclear bomb. The Islamic Republic warned this week that if the Security Council were to add to the embargos against Iran, Tehran would reduce its cooperation with that agency's inspectors. Prior to Iran taking this position, some of the heads of the European Union had warned Iran that if Iran were not to stop the enrichment of uranium, it would have to expect the approval of new embargos at the Security Council.

This week's Viewpoints program is for analyzing the latest events in Iran's nuclear program. The first question will be posed to Rasoul Nafisi, a University professor and an expert in the matters of Iran's political affairs and Mehrdad Khansali a former diplomat at the Iranian foreign ministry prior to the revolution in the February of 1979 and a political analyst, to find out what situation Tehran is in now after the meeting of the board. First let us start with you Mr. Khansali.

[Mr. Khansali]

Well, I believe Iran is in a situation where if the negotiations between Mr. Larigani and Mr. Solano don't get anywhere and no solution can be derived that would be acceptable to both sides, I believe the situation in Iran will deteriorate and there is no other solution other than drafting a new resolution by the various members of the United Nation's Security Council.

[Amirmosadegh Katoozian]

Mr. Nafisi

[Mr. Nafisi]

If you were to look at Iran's position, you would realize that in spite of the negotiations that are taking place, Iran's situation and the decision that has been taken from the leader's position all the way to the president is not to accept the suspension. The Europeans were not successful to find a middle ground and find a "Modus Vivandi", as it is called, to satisfy both sides. There is also the issue in the US. The Americans have invested some capital on this issue and they are trying to increase the pressure on Iran. Besides this, there is of course Iran's unique situation in which



Russia, China and to some extent India, wants Iran to stand up on its feet and they have posed a challenge to the US. If you put all of these factors next to each other, you will realize that this round will also be like the prior round. This means that Iran will not suspend, the sanctions [In English] will increase, but these embargos will not reach the level that would bring Iran to the negotiating table and convince Iran to suspend.

[Amirmosadegh Katoozian]

Mr. Khansali, when you look at everything that has been written about this issue, do you think there can theoretically, hypothetically, be solution, a middle ground?

[Mr. Khansali]

Well, at least during the last year, I mean from the June of last year when the European Union made a fundamental proposal to Iran, in trying to convince Iran to cooperate, the truth of the matter is that there are not too many formulas left out there. There have been some indirect statements made, such as what was said by Mr. Albaradei. Actually, there was a point he made that I heard when I saw him at some meetings and I asked him. Of course, I am not permitted to repeat all of his statements, but since he made these statements in the media, Albaradei has said that Iran had reached a phase that it was not supposed to reach. Since it has reached this point, we should start the negotiations from this point on. In fact, if the US or Europe were to accept this fact, you could say this would be a forum to reach a solution. However, after Mr. Albaradei mentioned these issues, the reaction by the US and Europe was that he was not allowed to opine about such issues and his job, as the head of agency, was to report the current situation to the Security Council, not to suggest solutions. That was one option [In English] that was mentioned, the other discussion that is going on indirectly is that Iran would be permitted to still keep the centrifuges that it has in active condition, but the hexachlorofide gas which they say and I am not very familiar with all those technical aspects either, but that gas...

[Amirmosadegh Katoozian]

Uranium Hexofluoride

[Mr. Khansali]

Uranium Hexofluoride, so that would not insert that gas into those centrifuges. Some people have mentioned this as a middle ground solution

to break this stalemate. However, this is not something that the US or the 3 European countries would accept and I don't think this plan would be acceptable to Russia or China at the Security Council. We now return to the issue that they don't want to kill diplomacy. However, diplomacy is absolutely not capable of producing the anticipated solutions in current conditions. This is where the situation gets complicated and there is also a race against time because many people believe from the moment Iran starts enriching these centrifuges in 3000 increments, which is recognized as being at the industrial level, it can acquire an atomic bomb in a short period of time and this is what they are talking about and this is where the situation gets complicated if they were unable to come to a solution through diplomacy.

[Amirmosadegh Katoozian]

What do you think about what Mr. Nafisi said that if the embargos were increased, nothing would be achieved and Iran would continue what it is doing?

[Mr. Khansali]

The issue is what the extent of these embargos would be. So far, with the 2 resolutions that have been approved, the embargos were not such... there was not a whole lot of pressure to force the Islamic Republic to change course, but this situation may not stay this way. In any event, if the Islamic Republic does not act upon the international community's wishes and commands, whether or not there were embargos, in that case there are other options [In English], which would be very unpleasant for the people and country of Iran.

[Amirmosadegh Katoozian]

Mr. Nafisi, Mr. Khansali is saying that embargos could increase and then something may be achieved.

[Mr. Nafisi]

As long as Iran is able to sell oil, there are some people who would help Iran. We saw this during the war, the war against Iraq. Whereas there was an embargo against Iran, Iran was buying weapons from 41 countries. Especially powers like Russia and China which are not restricted to any international principles and they prefer specific national and personal benefits over other matters and are also very susceptible to influences such as bribes and the like. As a result, I don't think embargos can have any

effect on the decision of the Iranian government. That is because we witnessed this experience with Cuba. Cuba has been suffering an embargo by the US for approximately 40 years and the economy is in bad shape and the people are suffering and the country is one of the poorest countries in Latin America. In spite of all of that, we can see that the government is continuing its own policies and it is still doing what it does. The reason I am saying this is that if the Iranian government wants to continue it, it can continue. Unless, there are some changes in that decision and the government changes its decision for a specific reason.

[Amirmosadegh Katoozian]

Very well, let's talk about the issue of the motives of the Islamic Republic of Iran for taking the positions that it is taking. What is your opinion Mr. Khansali?

[Mr. Khansali]

In my opinion, today because of the insistence of the regime on the issue of enriching, this cannot be looked as a national issue. I mean one of Mr. Ahmadinejad's intentions was to sell the issue of enriching uranium similar to the nationalization of oil industry, the way Mr. Mosadegh wanted to do, to the people of Iran. Even though, these two issues cannot be compared to each other, in anyway. However, due to the insistence of the regime on the continuing of such policies, we are now witnessing that Iran, specifically the Islamic Republic, is in a condition that the international crisis and pressures have never been to this extent. This means in fact that the regime is facing an unprecedented international crisis. At the same time that because of its inability and lack of management and lack of efficiency. The internal affairs of the country are suffering from a large scale economic crisis. Hence, due to Iran's insistence and its inability to take care of matters relating to running the country and taking care of the future and the needs of the ordinary people in Iran, if these two crisis come together, the conditions would become very dangerous for the regime and you could all of a sudden see that the issue of enriching and other things could be forgotten and many other vital and fundamental issues would surface and people would start paying attention to other things. Today, there are such conditions and if the western world or the Security Council were to increase the embargos, this will facilitate the process of entangling the two crisis of the unprecedented international crisis and the unprecedented predictable economic crisis inside the country. The regime also knows these facts.

[Amirmosadegh Katoozian]

For those listeners of "Radio Farda", who just joined us, I would like to remind you that you are listening to the weekly program called viewpoints. We have been analyzing the recent changes in Iran's nuclear program with two experts. We have been talking with Mehrdad Khansali, former diplomat at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, prior to the revolution in February 1979 and Rasoul Nafisi, university professor and an expert in Iranian political affairs.

What is Iran's motivation for continuing to take the positions it has taken so far? Mr. Nafisi.

[Mr. Nafisi]

What is obvious even from the letter that Mr. Rezai has written to the late Ayatollah Khomeini, it has been one of the strategies of the Iranian government, especially the revolutionary guard, to somehow have access to nuclear bombs and lasers and etc. That is why this has existed in Iran's military culture. What has been created newly is all the commotion and uproar in this regard, which as we had witnessed from Mr. Rohani's statements where he had mentioned his government would be willing to negotiate, and at the same time was adding to the centrifuges. They were doing all of this rather calmly. However, Mr. Ahmadinejad had a tendency to create uproar creating excitement and quick decisions. That is why he has stuck to these issues. It could be said that he is doing this to influence other issues regarding the country. I believe the issue is much more instantaneous, urgent and lacks in substance. I mean he has a tendency to create uproar, so he would always be spoken about and radio stations and newspapers would always talk about him.

What is particularly important about Iran and has to be mentioned, is that the Iranian government's decision regarding nuclear enrichment and possibly producing nuclear weapons cannot be broken and changed internally. What may happen is from outside the country. That would also not happen by military threats from the US and others, however by considering the realities that exist today in the Middle East. The reality is that there are currently 7 Arab countries that are currently entering into substantial agreements to develop nuclear armaments. Currently, we are seeing the aspect of a major armament race in the region and if the countries in the region were to start moving toward an arms race that would be completely detrimental to Iran.

In what respect would that be to Iran's detriment? That is because currently, Iran has a natural strategic supremacy due to its large population and size. However, if other countries move toward more advanced weapons and arm themselves with something like a nuclear bomb, a small country such as Qatar would also have the same importance and power as Iran. That is why if you look at this issue in the long term, Iran's arming itself and moving toward nuclear armaments, if they do. So far we obviously don't have anything stated in that regard; if that does exist, that decision would be strategically entirely to the detriment of Iran.

[Mr. Khansali]

What I wanted to add to Mr. Nafisi's statements is that the people of Iran are fundamentally unaware of the consequences of pursuing a nuclear policy for Iran's national interests. Dr. Nafisi mentioned the aspects of national security in the region and what they were. What were the aspects of this foreign policy, which completely isolates Iran? What are the economic aspects? Does the government and country of Iran, considering the fact that it has oil and gas, truly need this if the intention is truly for peaceful purposes? Even if it is pursuing nuclear weapons, is a country with Iran's economic strengths able to tolerate such conditions without sacrificing the other needs of the people such as health care, education and many-many other things that people need? Finally, there is the environmental aspect of this policy. If the Islamic Republic claims that it wants to use nuclear energy only for peaceful purposes and produce electricity, has it told the Iranian people that it had to buy at least 16 more nuclear reactors from the Russians. This promise to buy 16 additional reactors from Russia is the reason Russia keeps flirting with Iran. Do they consider the environmental interests of the Iranian population in a country where there are all types of earthquakes and other incidents? Aren't our people supposed to know and be aware of the consequences of an action that is wasting our national wealth and something that we fundamentally don't need and put the country in such danger?

[Amirmosadegh Katoozian]

Mr. Nafisi, what is your opinion about this part of discussion? From an expert's point of view, usage of nuclear energy may result in a national dialogue and Iranians may come to the conclusion that there may not be the need for nuclear energy at the levels that is being currently talked about and there are better ways to acquire fuel.

[Mr. Nafisi]

I have to tell you about my own specific prejudice, that I am generally speaking opposed to nuclear energy, even though currently, there is a wave of nuclear energy in the world. They say nuclear energy is the best and cleanest existing energy. Taking into consideration the extraordinary growth in terrorism in today's world and the new devices they are using for destruction, if they get access to one of these reactors and were to blow it up, I have to wonder what would happen to the whole world. I am mostly concerned about this aspect of nuclear energy and that is why I am personally opposed to nuclear energy. Reasonable countries such as Scandinavian countries are completely staying away from nuclear energy and don't use even one reactor. However, France is the opposite and it gets almost all of its energy from nuclear power. The US is also moving to this side, but my own bias is that I am opposed to nuclear energy. I specifically mentioned the issue of Iran, which as an earthquake prone country would make this matter more difficult. As such why would a country that has so many sources of energy need to enter this dangerous issue, which can create headaches inside the country as well as outside the country?

[Amirmosadegh Katoozian]

What if you put aside your own prejudice, could you reach the conclusion that in the cost-benefit analysis, going toward usage of nuclear energy in Iran would benefit Iran?

[Mr. Nafisi]

Considering the fact that Iran's uranium resources are very limited, I still believe this would not be a cost saving matter, especially considering the expenses that are being imposed upon Iran with these and future embargos. That is because these embargos are being repeated every two months. As a result, if you compare these in terms of money, I mean compare it to the benefits that would be created by establishing nuclear power plants it may not be economically beneficial to Iran.

[Mr. Khansali]

It is exactly for this reason that when you put these issues next to each other and experts provide an expert opinion, they come to the conclusion that this is not a reasonable policy. It is the intention of officials of the Islamic Republic, which has caused the international community and the

officials at the Agency and the Security Council has forced them to think that these people are only pursuing nothing but the bomb.

[Amirmosadegh Katoozian]

We now come to our last question. Even though all experts and observers consider a military strike against Iran impossible and deny that, however based on some military sources and some members of the media and in some capitals of the world, there was talk that during the last year of presidency of Mr. Bush a heavy strike against the Islamic Republic's nuclear centers and military bases would not be unimaginable. Mr. Khansali.

[Mr. Khansali]

In my opinion, the US, European countries, and especially France, especially with the election of their new president, are seriously concerned about the consequences of Iran acquiring nuclear weapons. They are making every effort to prevent this from happening. In my opinion, there are several scenarios that have been mentioned in this regard. However, one of the concerns of the US government is to avoid getting engaged in something that would alienate the ordinary people. That is because the US has an exceptional opportunity with the people of Iran, unlike the people of the region and would like to fundamentally have the support of the people. This is the danger that if there was an attack on these centers, the ordinary people would be against the US. For this reason, this concept [In English] that what should be done to conduct a military strike, has been studied a lot and in my opinion has been substantially refined.

The motivation that exists today and in my opinion is talked about very rarely is that if Iran does not step back from this issue of enrichment and does not accept any solution, there would be some limited military actions, only and only for the purpose of delaying Iran's atomic project. This is not to say destroying all of Iran's nuclear capabilities, because that would be an almost impossible task to achieve because it is so widespread. However, as an example if Natanz, Isfahan or Arak and the centers, I mean the centers that are related to the nuclear project, were destroyed so that ordinary people don't live around those centers, this act will delay Iran's nuclear project. At the same time, it will show that it was a clever act and will show how serious the world is. In my opinion, such a solution, according to what I have heard from different corners through serious sources in the US; in my opinion this is a school of thought that could turn

into reality if Iran does not depart with its current policies and decides to pursue this matter to the end.

[Amirmosadegh Katoozian]

Mr. Nafisi, what is your opinion about this matter?

[Mr. Nafisi]

It is the opinion of military experts that a military confrontation with Iran will have several problems. First of all, the centers where Iran is producing weapons are not very obvious on the map. This is the main problem. However, as the doctor mentioned, striking some of these centers may delay the project, but when I was talking to a Belgian official in this regard, he stated, "In order to strike these centers, we would need tactical nuclear weapons. Conventional weapons would not be effective, and if we were to use tactical nuclear weapons, the entire Islamic world would turn against us and they will say how it happened that an Islamic country was subjected to a nuclear attack." However, there have been some rumors coming from Ehud Olmert who has said firing 1000 cruise missiles against these centers in Iran, would set back Iran tens of years from such productions. However, as an Iranian, we have to mention that if such a thing were to occur. Our main historical cities such as Isfahan and Arak would be uninhabitable. That is even though it has been said the extent of nuclear productions and the material that is being manufactured over there is not that important, especially in Isfahan. However, if they were to use tactical nuclear weapons, we should forget about the city of Isfahan.

[Amirmosadegh Katoozian]

Thank you to you Mr. Nafisi and Mr. Khansali and thank you to the listeners of "Radio Farda".

Until next time with the viewpoints program, wishing you good luck. My name is Amirmosadegh Katoozian.

[Male host]

Now it is Fariborz Gharib's turn with the latest news from the world of sports.

World of sports.



[Fariborz Gharib]

The head coach of the Iran's soccer team stated, "Two friendly games against the national teams of Ghana and Jamaica for the purpose of testing the present players in the national teams camp, prior to participating in the Asian Nations Cup, is sufficient."

On Saturday afternoon and after the start of the new round of national team's practice sessions Amir Ghalenoi added, "We will probably have another preparatory game a few days prior to the start of the Nations Cup in the city of Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia." Iran's national team's practice sessions resumed on Saturday morning after 2 days off with the participation of 18 players at the Enghelab sports complex golf course in Tehran. The Asian Nations Cup games will start on July 6<sup>th</sup> of this year and will be held jointly in the 4 countries of Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam and Thailand. The Iranian team will be placed in the third group along with the teams from Malaysia, Uzbekistan and China. According to the schedule of the games for this group, which will be held in Malaysia, the Iranian national soccer team will face the national team of Uzbekistan on July 11<sup>th</sup>.

Two young Iranian weightlifters received two bronze medals at the 33<sup>rd</sup> youth weightlifting championship. On the last day of this competition, which was held in the city of Prague in the Czech Republic, Kian Nejadbakhtiari in the 105 kilogram weight group was eliminated from this competition. He was able to lift 155 kilograms over his head in the snatch. However, he was not able to lift his chosen weights in the clean and jerk over his head. Last night, Navab Nasisharab, Iranian weightlifter in the 94 kilo weight group was able to win two bronze medals in the snatch and total. The Iranian youth weightlifting team had participated with two weightlifters in this competition.

Javad Nekounam, one of Iran's national team players, has asked the head of police of his country to allow Pas team to continue playing in the upper division league. The midfielder from the Spanish team of Osasona, also added in his conversation with the Mehr news agency, "Pars team had always been a symbol for police in the past and I don't know how the managers of this old and well rooted team could hand over the team to Hamadan." Nekounam further added, "I am ready to pay for the costs of having a first division team for the good people of state of Hamadan with my own funds, so they would be active in soccer and would also not take away Pas from us." Javad Nekounam had been playing for "Pas" team for

several years prior to his transfer to Osasona in Spain and had started his career in the youth division of this team. Two weeks ago, the police officials in Iran transferred the “Pas” team, which had over 40 years of tradition in Tehran’s soccer scene, to Alvand Martyr’s team in the state of Hamadan.

Fariborz Gharib with “Radio Farda”.

[Male Host]

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End of Translation